

I will be glad, if you wish, to describe the terrible ordeal and torture that I went through. I lost my right hand and my right ear when a rebel chopped them off with a machete.

No, I want instead to direct your attention to my young colleagues who traveled with me from the Murry Town Amputee Camp in our capital city of Freetown. Unlike me, they have suffered much even before they could begin really formalizing their dreams for a bright future. The two youngest with us are only four years old. And these three girls here are only eight, nine and ten years old.

Since I read and write in English I sometimes see articles in foreign newspapers or magazines stating that the war in Sierra Leone must be a tribal war, or maybe a religious war. Religion and tribal affiliation have nothing to do with why we are now without our limbs.

If it were a tribal war, you would not see in front of you representatives of our country's major ethnic groups, including Temne and Mende. Those amputated by the rebels include every ethnic group in Sierra Leone. If it were a religious war, you would not have both Christians and Muslims sitting here in front of you. Christians and Muslims have suffered equally at the hands of rebel forces.

The war is not tribal, and it is not religious. It is simply largely a war over control of diamonds. Little pieces of rock that people around the world like to wear on their fingers and hang from their ears. As you can see, because of these rocks I no longer have an ear or five of my fingers. And the victims you see in front of you are examples of what has happened when the people and the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone did not allow the rebels to keep control of the entire country.

Twenty thousand men, women and children have suffered the same excruciating pain and suffering as the eight of us sitting before you. Imagine the kind of people who would do this to Memunatu or Mohammed. What in the world did they do to anyone? Or Bintu, Damba or Fatu here? Or any of the rest of us? How can human beings do this to other human beings? And how can humanity allow this to continue to go on?

At home in Freetown, our hopes rise and fall with news of announcements from the United States, Europe or the UN. However, while Congressional committees and the parliaments of the world discuss and debate the issue of Sierra Leone, the suffering continues to spread. Children like those before you—Memunatu and Mohammed and Bintu and Damba—these are the victims of inaction and delay.

I am here to ask you for help in bringing the killing and maiming to an end. I am here to ask you to do everything in your power to protect the youngest and most innocent of God's creation from this terrible manifestation of man's worst greed. For if you allow this new form of systematic and widespread terrorism to be tolerated in Sierra Leone, it can happen again in some other country in the future.

Since I am not a politician, my goal is not to engage in politics. My interest is in helping the children of my country have a chance to live normal, healthy lives. This is a right that has been brutally taken away from those you see in front of you today. We will need help in rebuilding these as well since all of our schools and hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. But the rebuilding process cannot begin in earnest until we can begin living without fear.

Again, I thank you for the chance to come to Congress to plead the case of Sierra Leone's amputees. May God bless you and show you the way to help us.

## REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY R. YATES

### HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2000*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate the wonderful life of our colleague, Sid Yates. He served here for almost fifty years and left an indelible mark on this institution.

I was privileged to serve with Sid as a part of the Illinois delegation for nineteen of my twenty-one years in Congress and on the House Appropriations Committee for eighteen. I will never know another public official more dedicated, astute, well-prepared and forceful in his work. I may often not have agreed with him, but I always respected him. He stood up and fought for the things he believed in. There can be no higher compliment paid to a member of this institution.

As Sid got into his eighties, many Republicans from his district would come to me and say, "Well, Sid Yates must be less vigorous, more forgetful, and less attentive to his legislative duties now." I would have to tell them that was not at all the case. Right into the final days of his time in Congress, Sid was still in the forefront of debates and issues before the Appropriations Committee. If I can be half as sharp as Sid Yates was on reaching the same age, I will be thankful indeed.

DAVE OBEY has said repeatedly that in his thirty-six years in Congress nothing can compare to the debate between Sid Yates and Eddie Boland during a mark-up in the full appropriations committee regarding federal support for the construction of an American Super Sonic Transport (SST). Sid opposed this construction while Eddie was determined to facilitate it. They debated each other for over an hour and held the attention of every member of the committee. Both men were articulate and earnest in their positions. It was incredible to watch. At the end, together they received a standing ovation from the entire committee. This is an event that has gone down in the lore of the House, and it is ironic that in the year of Sid's death, the European version of the SST is grounded and unlikely to return to service.

We send to Sid's wife and family our sorrow in his loss, but celebrate the life of an extraordinary man dedicated to his country, to his principles, to public service as the highest of callings and to this institution.

## STATEMENT ON H.R. 2559, THE FY 2001 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CONFERENCE REPORT), H.R. 3244, THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT CONFERENCE REPORT, AND THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

### HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2000*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Transportation Appropriations conference report, the Trafficking

Victims Protection Act conference report, and the Violence Against Women Act, which was included in that bill.

As many people in my home state of Missouri know all too well, our infrastructure is crumbling. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have the 6th worst roads and bridges in the country. That is why I am so pleased that this conference report passed the House today, and even more pleased that it contained more than \$70 million in discretionary funds to directly address the tremendous needs in our state. I want to thank Subcommittee Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member SABO for taking such great steps to address our infrastructure needs. And I also want to give special thanks to Congresswoman JOANN EMERSON for working so tirelessly to bring to the attention of the Members of the Committee Missouri's dire road situation. She has been a wonderful advocate on the Committee and I greatly appreciate her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express my support for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act conference report and the Violence Against Women Act, which was included in that bill. More than a million women and children are trafficked around the world for sex and other exploitative purposes every year—50,000 of which end up right here in the United States. This bill includes several measures which will strengthen current law to cut down on the unlawful buying and selling of human beings for profit. I'm very pleased that the house was able to come together to address this fundamental issue of human rights.

Finally, I want to give my warmest thanks to all of those who have so strongly supported re-authorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which I cosponsor. In my home state of Missouri, one out of every two women who seek a domestic violence shelter are turned away at the door because there simply is not enough room. These women are turned away from shelter with no option but to go back to their abuser. Mr. Speaker, this is a tragedy. In terms of legislation that affects real people's lives, I can think of none which is more important. Passage of this bill ensures that women will continue to have access to the important basic services, which have helped so many escape their situations. Continued authorization of this program says to women in America that there is a better tomorrow and that we are dedicated to helping you find it.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that these two important pieces of legislation passed overwhelmingly here today.

## RECOGNIZING REVEREND CRAIG B. GADDY, SR.

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 6, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Craig B. Gaddy, Sr., of the Friendship Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

I honor Reverend Gaddy today in celebration of his first anniversary as Pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church. Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gaddy is deserving of our praise because he has served as a pillar of our community, having devoted his life to serving the needs of others.